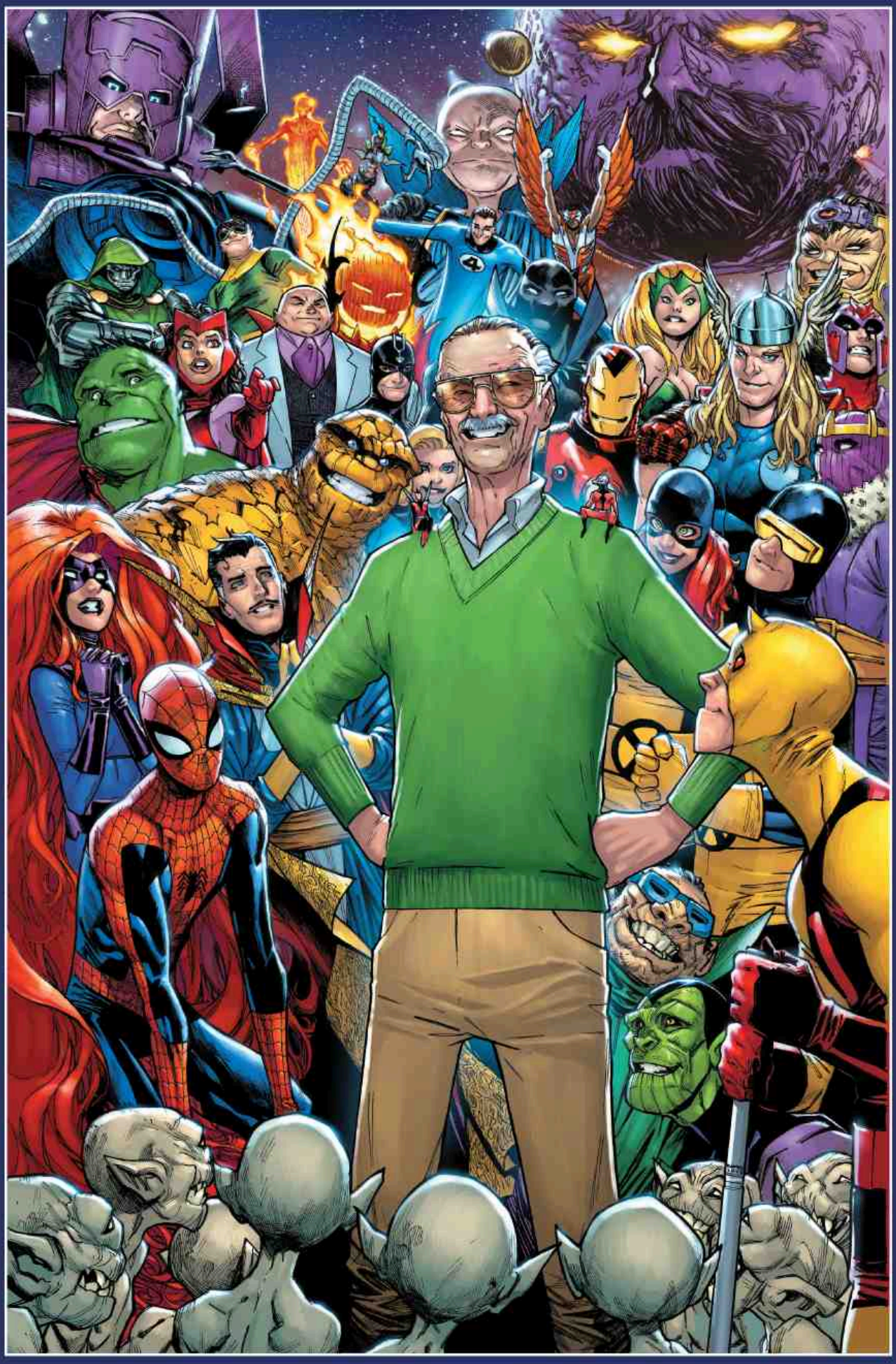
MARVEL
8
V · ANTÔNIO · ARCINIEGA
CARNAGE
30 YEARS

100 YEARS AND STILL INSPIRING US ALL



WE LOVE YOU, STAN!

YEARS AGO, THE **VENOM SYMBIOTE** SPAWNED, AND ITS OFFSPRING BONDED TO SERIAL KILLER **CLETUS KASADY**. IMBUED WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, SPEED, ENDURANCE AND POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, KASADY AND HIS EXTRATERRESTRIAL "OTHER" SHARE A UNIQUE BOND AND HAVE LONG TERRORIZED THE MARVEL UNIVERSE AS...

CARNAGE

CARNAGE IS LOOSE. REJECTED BY ITS FORMER HOST **CLETUS KASADY**, THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE IS ON ITS OWN, BUT IT HAS FOUND A DISCIPLE IN SERIAL KILLER **KENNETH NEELY**. AND THE MURDEROUS SYMBIOTE IS EVOLVING.

AFTER ATTACKING AND STEALING THE POWERS OF SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS AND POSSESSING A HELHOUND, CARNAGE TRAVELED TO NIFFLEHEIM TO HUNT DOWN HIS NEXT VICTIM, **MALEKITH**.

BUT DETECTIVE **JONATHAN SHAYDE**, WHO IS BEING AIDED BY THE VOICE OF CLETUS KASADY IN HIS HEAD FOLLOWING AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE SYMBIOTE, REACHED THE DARK ELF FIRST. SPARING HIM, THE TRIO MADE PLANS TO ESCAPE-- UNTIL THEY WERE THWARTED BY THE UNLIKELY BARGAIN STRUCK BY CARNAGE AND HELA. NOW CARNAGE HAS THE NEXT PIECE OF HIS PUZZLE: MALEKITH'S CODEX!

RAM V
WRITER

ROGÊ ANTÔNIO
ARTIST

ERICK ARCINIEGA
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

KENDRICK "KUNKKA" LIM
COVER ARTIST

JONBOY MEYERS (X-TREME X-MEN)
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

ANTHONY GAMBINO
DESIGNER

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

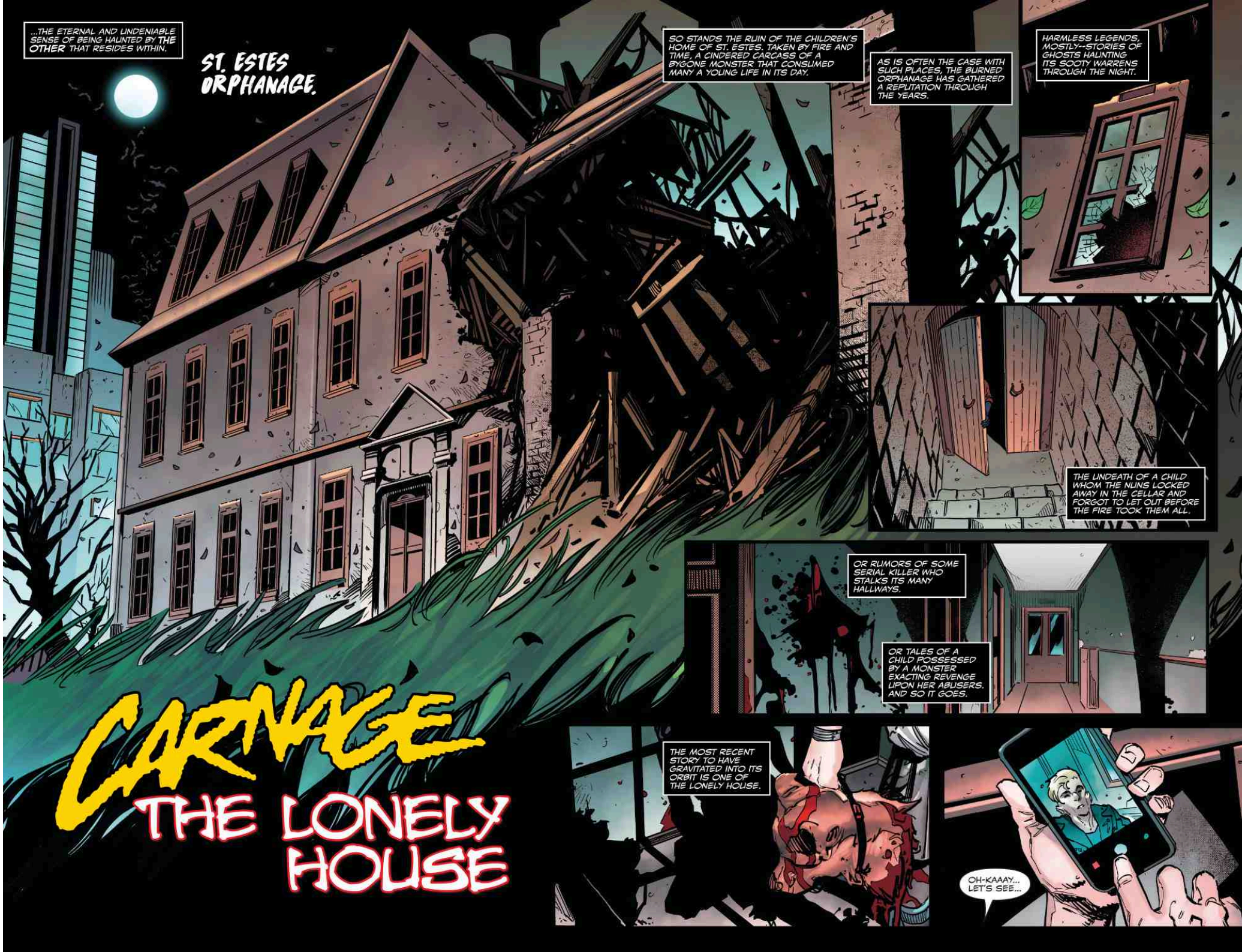
C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

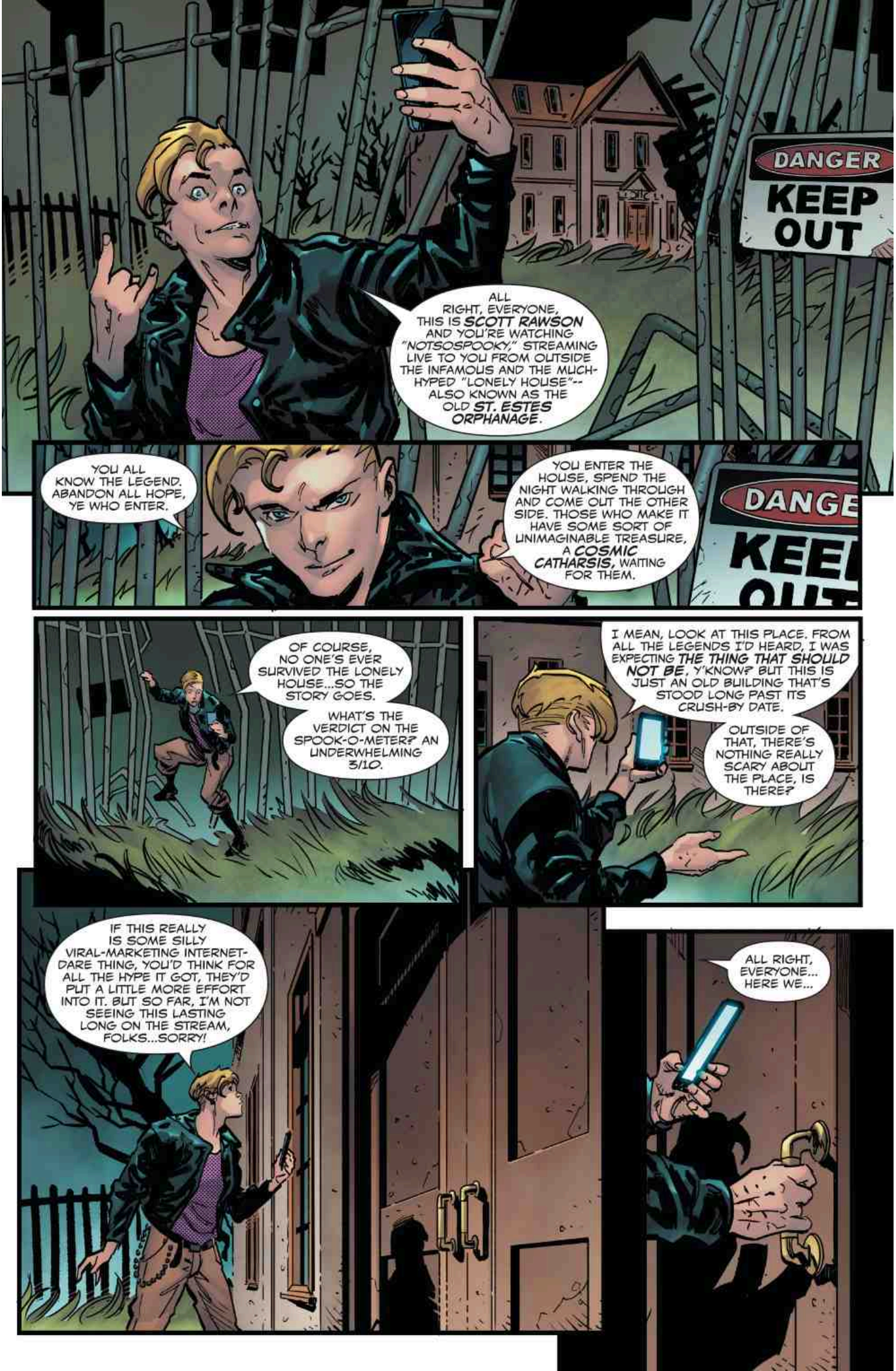
© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

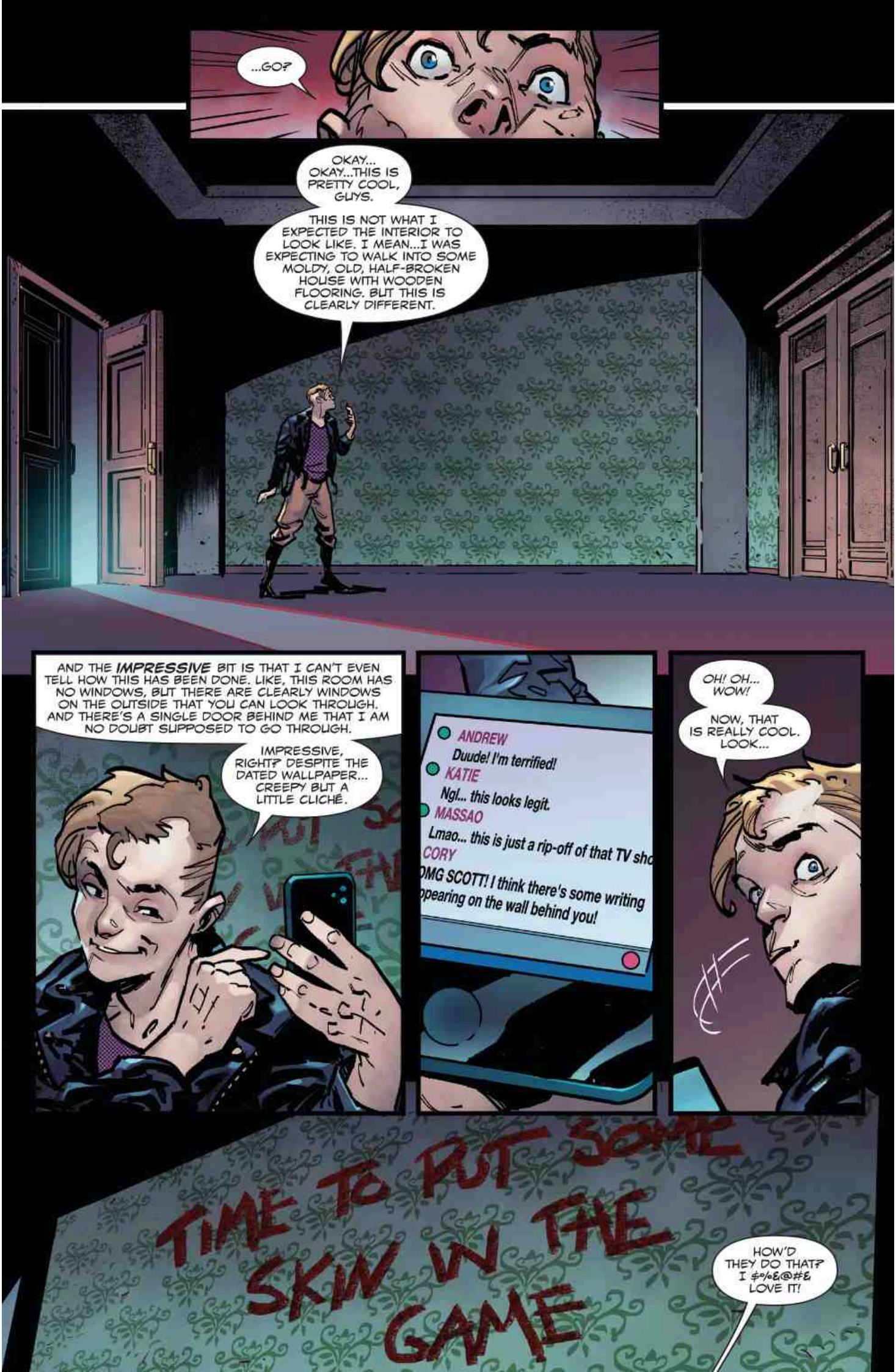
IN THIS WORLD, WE DO NOT SET THE DEAD UPON LONGBOATS. WE NO LONGER PLACE COINS UPON THE EYES FOR THE RIVERMAN. THERE IS NO PASSAGE TO VALHALLA FOR THE BATTLE-DEAD, NO DESCENT INTO THE UNDERTOW FOR THE COWARDS ACCURSED.
WHAT DOES THIS WORLD HAVE TO DO WITH GODS AND QUEENS AND CREATURES IN SOME DISTANT HEL? THE SNOW FALLS JUST AS SLOWLY, EVEN IN A DISTANT COLD.
IN ICY HEL, THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED, HELA, CARRIES UPON HER SHOULDER MALEKITH THE ACCURSED'S BROKEN BODY.
"YOUR DEBT IS NOT YET PAID, ELF-LORD," SHE SAYS.
SHE WILL TETHER HIM TO THE COLD STONE ONCE AGAIN, AND HE WILL BEGIN HIS PENITENCE ANEW.

TO JON SHAYDE OF MIDGARD, SHE SAYS, "YOUR DESTINY IS YOUR OWN. YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE...NOT YET, ANYWAY.
"YOU MADE YOUR WAY HERE. I AM SURE YOU CAN FIND YOUR WAY BACK."
TO THE FLESH CREATURE FROM BEYOND, SHE SAYS NOTHING. SHE LEAVES HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES. SHE THINKS HIM A FORCE OF CHANGE TOO WILLFUL TO TAME, TOO POWERFUL TO WIELD.
INSTEAD, THE WILY QUEEN HAS MADE A DEAL WITH HIM...TO WHAT END, TIME WILL TELL.
WHY? WHY MUST WE SPEAK OF THIS, YOU ASK? WHY MUST WE PAY ATTENTION?
BECAUSE DEBTS, DESTINIES AND DEALS HOLD THEIR OWN ACROSS WORLDS, ACROSS TIME AND OTHER SUCH BOUNDARIES. THEIR TRUTH HOLDS AS MUCH WEIGHT IN OUR WORLD AS IT DOES IN ANY OTHER.

THEN, AT LAST, WE COME TO KENNETH NEELY. THE MURDERER WHO THINKS HIMSELF AN ARTIST. WHO TEETERS NOW ON THE EDGE.
A HEEDLESS MAN WHO HAS, AT LAST, COME TO LEARN OF CONSEQUENCES. HE HESITATES, UNSURE OF HIMSELF, OF HIS ADULATION OF THE CREATURE HE CALLS CARNAGE.
WHAT IS IT?
A CODEX, MY LITTLE PUP.
EACH TIME A SYMBIOTE BONDS WITH A HOST, IT LEAVES BEHIND A PART OF ITSELF...A UNIQUE SIGNATURE. A MEMORY OF THEIR SYMBIOSIS. NOW EMBEDDED WITHIN ITS HOST.
THE HOST IS FOREVER CHANGED? EVEN AFTER PARTING...
MUCH AS A SYMBIOTE CARRIES THE INNER WORKINGS OF THEIR BONDED HOST.
YOU ARE HAUNTED BY EACH OTHER.
HE SHIVERS STILL IN THE ICY SNOW. NOT OF THE COLD, BUT OF SOME LINGERING, PRIMAL FEAR. BECAUSE KENNETH NEELY FEARS WHAT HIS DESIRE MAY TRULY BRING...

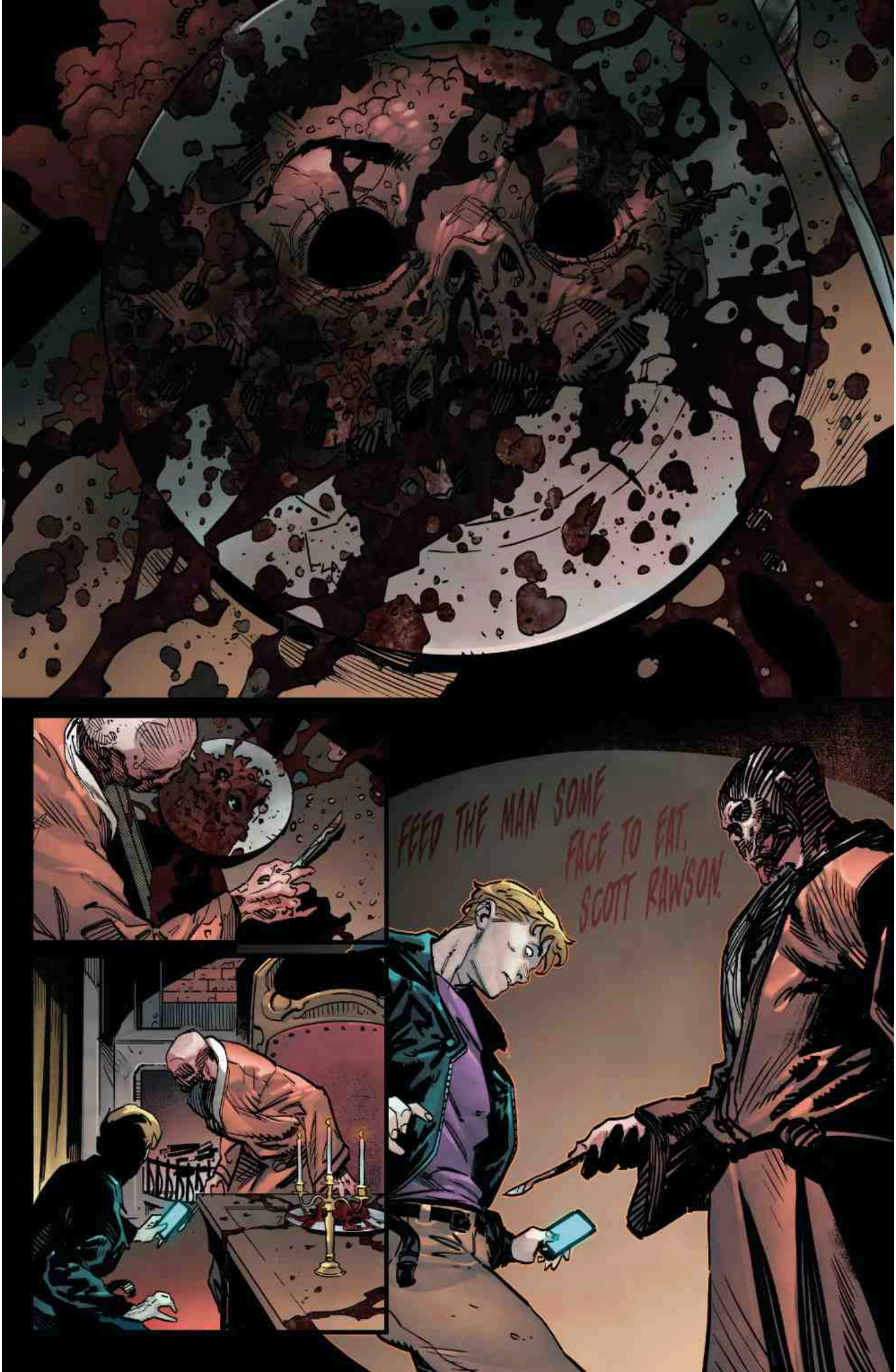

...THE ETERNAL AND UNDENIABLE SENSE OF BEING HAUNTED BY THE OTHER THAT RESIDES WITHIN.
ST. ESTES ORPHANAGE.
SO STANDS THE RUIN OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF ST. ESTES. TAKEN BY FIRE AND TIME, A CINDERED CARCASS OF A BYGONE MONSTER THAT CONSUMED MANY A YOUNG LIFE IN ITS DAY.
AS IS OFTEN THE CASE WITH SUCH PLACES, THE BURNED ORPHANAGE HAS GATHERED A REPUTATION THROUGH THE YEARS.
HARMLESS LEGENDS, MOSTLY--STORIES OF GHOSTS HAUNTING ITS SOOTY WARRENS THROUGH THE NIGHT.
THE UNDEATH OF A CHILD WHOM THE NUNS LOCKED AWAY IN THE CELLAR AND FORGOT TO LET OUT BEFORE THE FIRE TOOK THEM ALL.
OR RUMORS OF SOME SERIAL KILLER WHO STALKS ITS MANY HALLWAYS.
OR TALES OF A CHILD POSSESSED BY A MONSTER EXACTING REVENGE UPON HER ABUSERS. AND SO IT GOES.
CARNAGE
THE LONELY HOUSE
THE MOST RECENT STORY TO HAVE GRAVITATED INTO ITS ORBIT IS ONE OF THE LONELY HOUSE.
OH-KAAAY... LET'S SEE...


DANGER
KEEP OUT
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, THIS IS SCOTT RAWSON AND YOU'RE WATCHING "NOTSOSPOOKY," STREAMING LIVE TO YOU FROM OUTSIDE THE INFAMOUS AND THE MUCH-HYPED "LONELY HOUSE"-- ALSO KNOWN AS THE OLD ST. ESTES ORPHANAGE.
YOU ALL KNOW THE LEGEND. ABANDON ALL HOPE, YE WHO ENTER.
YOU ENTER THE HOUSE, SPEND THE NIGHT WALKING THROUGH AND COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE. THOSE WHO MAKE IT HAVE SOME SORT OF UNIMAGINABLE TREASURE, A COSMIC CATHARSIS, WAITING FOR THEM.
OF COURSE, NO ONE'S EVER SURVIVED THE LONELY HOUSE...SO THE STORY GOES.
WHAT'S THE VERDICT ON THE SPOOK-O-METER? AN UNDERWHELMING 3/10.
I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS PLACE. FROM ALL THE LEGENDS I'D HEARD, I WAS EXPECTING THE THING THAT SHOULD NOT BE, Y'KNOW? BUT THIS IS JUST AN OLD BUILDING THAT'S STOOD LONG PAST ITS CRUSH-BY DATE.
OUTSIDE OF THAT, THERE'S NOTHING REALLY SCARY ABOUT THE PLACE, IS THERE?
IF THIS REALLY IS SOME SILLY VIRAL-MARKETING INTERNET-DARE THING, YOU'D THINK FOR ALL THE HYPE IT GOT, THEY'D PUT A LITTLE MORE EFFORT INTO IT. BUT SO FAR, I'M NOT SEEING THIS LASTING LONG ON THE STREAM, FOLKS...SORRY!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE... HERE WE...


...GO?
OKAY... OKAY...THIS IS PRETTY COOL, GUYS.
THIS IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED THE INTERIOR TO LOOK LIKE. I MEAN...I WAS EXPECTING TO WALK INTO SOME MOLDY, OLD, HALF-BROKEN HOUSE WITH WOODEN FLOORING. BUT THIS IS CLEARLY DIFFERENT.
AND THE IMPRESSIVE BIT IS THAT I CAN'T EVEN TELL HOW THIS HAS BEEN DONE. LIKE, THIS ROOM HAS NO WINDOWS, BUT THERE ARE CLEARLY WINDOWS ON THE OUTSIDE THAT YOU CAN LOOK THROUGH. AND THERE'S A SINGLE DOOR BEHIND ME THAT I AM NO DOUBT SUPPOSED TO GO THROUGH.
IMPRESSIVE, RIGHT? DESPITE THE DATED WALLPAPER... CREEPY BUT A LITTLE CLICHÉ.
ANDREW
Duude! I'm terrified!
KATIE
Ngl... this looks legit.
MASSAO
Lmao... this is just a rip-off of that TV sho
CORY
OMG SCOTT! I think there's some writing ppearing on the wall behind you!
OH! OH... WOW!
NOW, THAT IS REALLY COOL. LOOK...
TIME TO PUT SOME SKIN IN THE GAME
HOW'D THEY DO THAT? I $%&@#& LOVE IT!

OHHH...I SEE. "SKIN IN THE GAME," AND THEY'VE LEFT ME A %#&#@% SCALPEL. REAL ORIGINAL.
I GUESS THIS IS ABOUT WHERE MOST OF THE SCRUBS WOULD EXIT THE WAY THEY CAME.
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A CLOSE MANICURE TO SCARE ME OFF!
YOU HEAR THAT? HERE'S YOUR--AHH!--POUND OF FLESH...NOW SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT.
OLIVIA
Nooo... stahp. Go back.
DAVID
The Chad Scott Rawson...
SATY
Dude this is awesome!
I mean... I'll take this over readi
comics anytime.
CHLOE
Scott don't $£%#^&# go in there
JULIAN
's a TRAP!

MNCH SCRNF MMF CHMP
WHAT...
...THE ACTUAL @&#$?
SKRNCH CHOMP SLRP
THAT...THAT ROBE. YOU GUYS AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE THIS.
M-MY FATHER...HE HAD A ROBE... JUST LIKE THAT ONE...
S-SORRY...I GOTTA SAY, I'M A BIT FREAKED OUT BY THE ROBE. BUT %#%$@&$ LOOK AT THIS!
PLAYER66
That is creepy
NWOLF_12
Nope! Can't watch this anymore.
NATALIE
Dude what's for eats?
13ZTOP13
What's in the plate?
TAMURA
Show meeeeee...


FEED THE MAN SOME FACE TO FAT, SCOTT RAWSON.

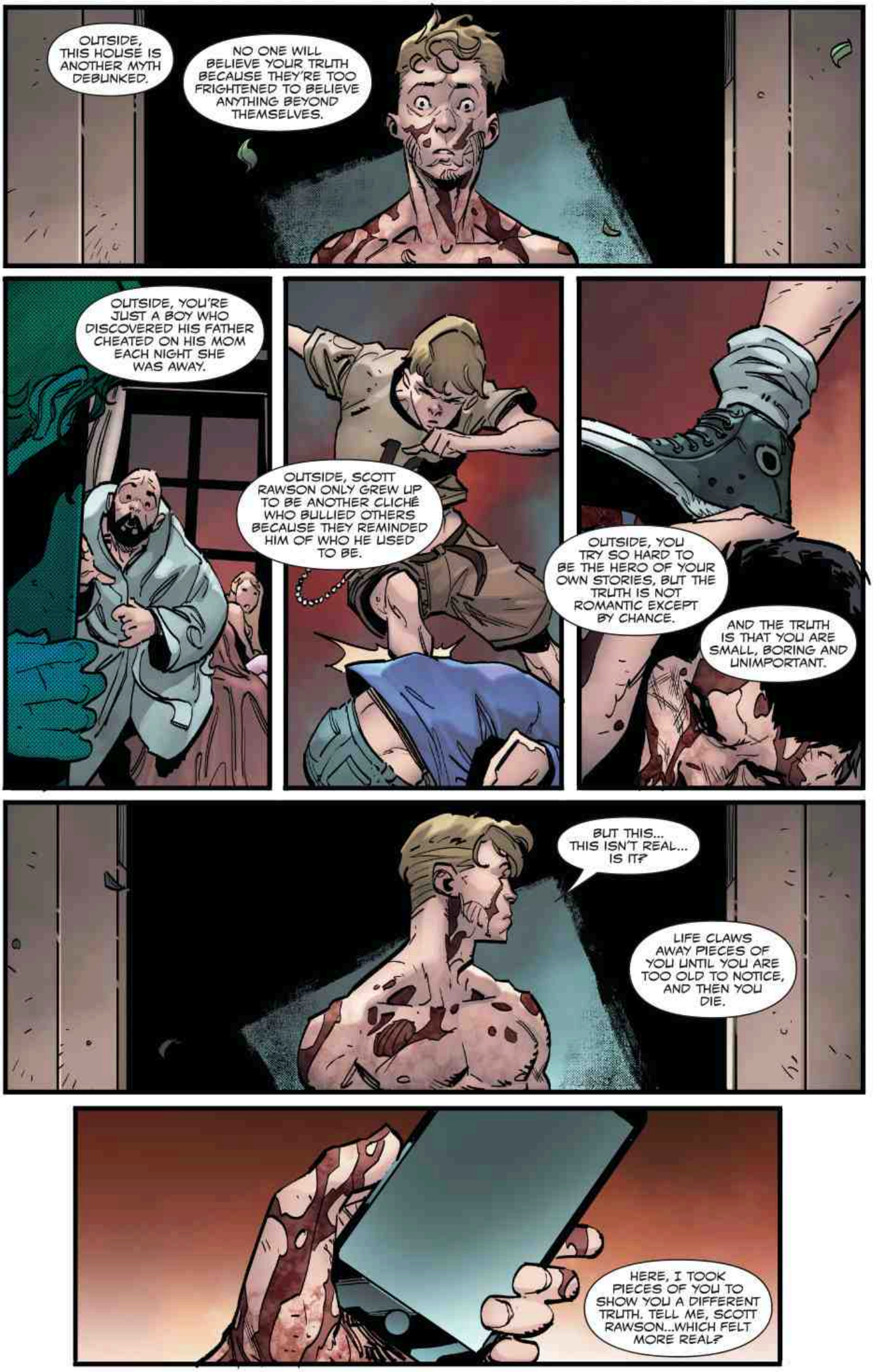
DrA85
oooo Scott!
ANDREW
I'm out. This is too much.
S.GUY13
This is messed up. Isn't there a rule against this on stream or something?
MASSAO
It's all fake guys. Not-so-spooky after all.
EEEEEEEEYYYYYAHH!
AHH... YES...
...LET'S TURN THAT OFF, SHALL WE?
MUCH BETTER.

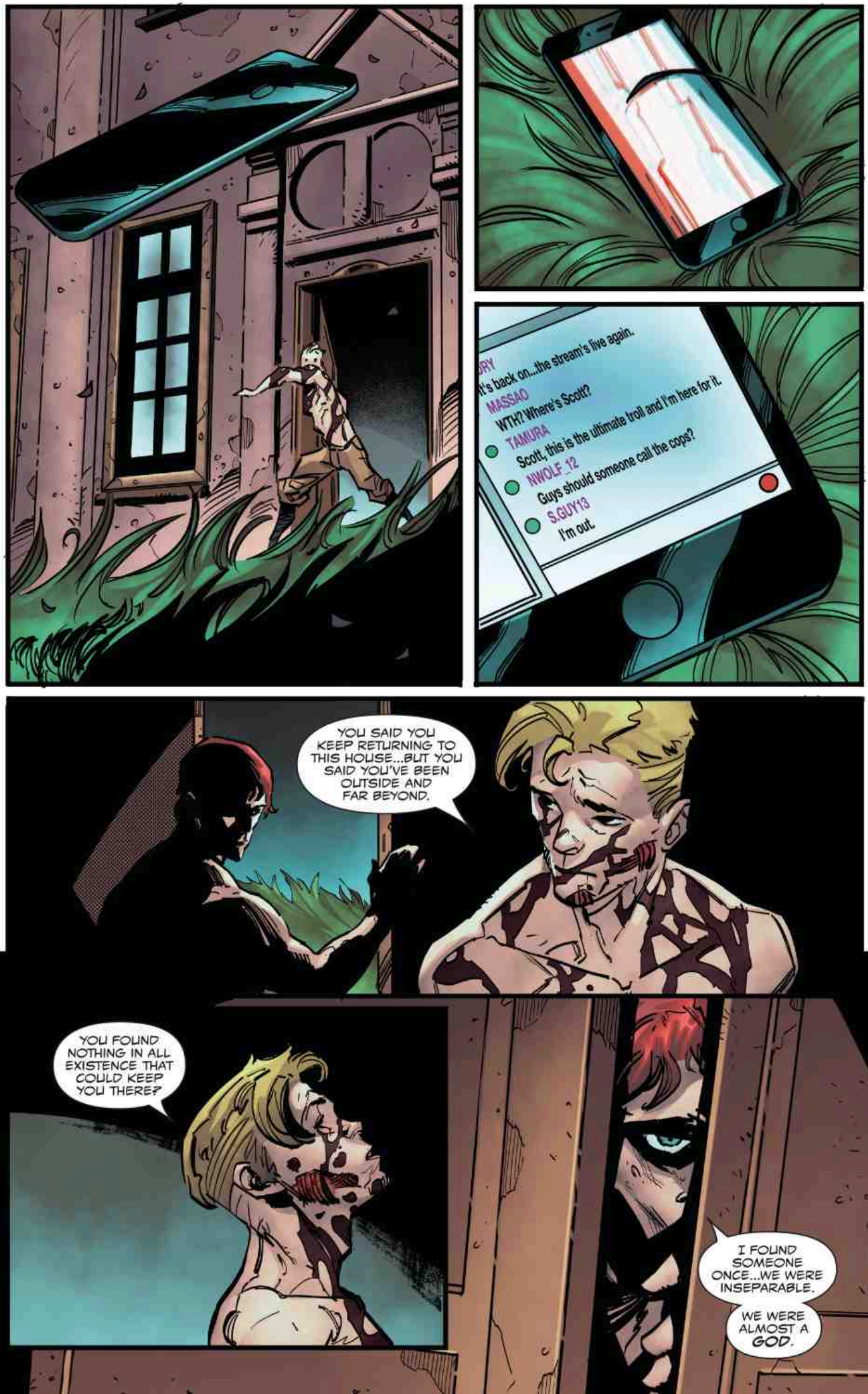
SCOTT...
SCOOOOOOTT...
IT WAS THE ROBE, WASN'T IT?
YOU CAME HERE, TO MY HOUSE, AND YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT LIKE ALL THE OTHERS THE MOMENT I ASKED FOR ANOTHER PIECE OF FLESH.
BUT IT WAS THE ROBE...YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW, DON'T YOU?
YOU HAD A TASTE AND NOW YOU CAN'T STOP. MMMH.
WH-WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WH-WHO...ARE YOU?

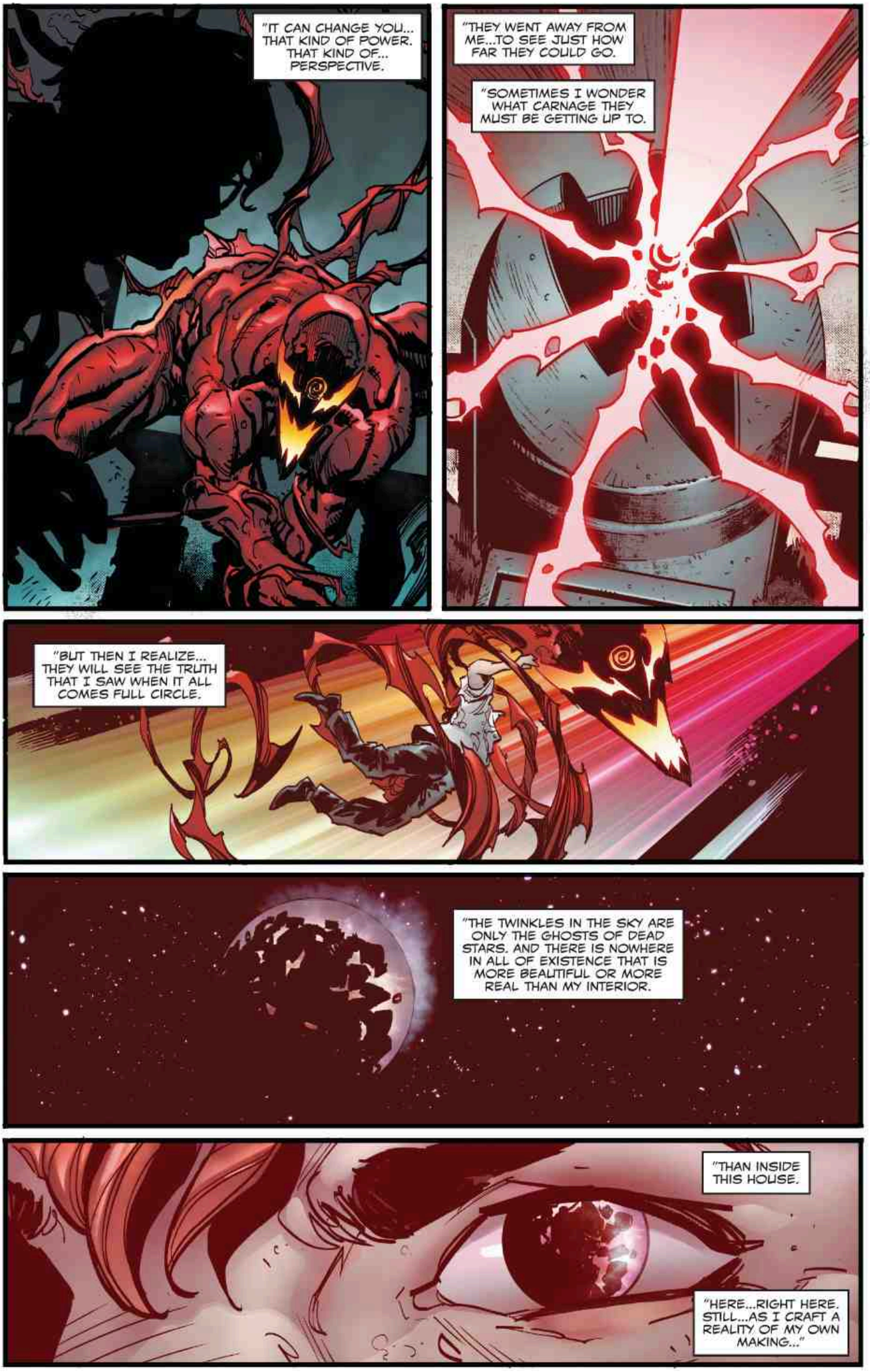
OH, I'M JUST AN ORPHAN BOY WHO GREW UP HERE IN ST. ESTES...WHERE THE SHADOWS THAT ROAMED THE HALLS WERE SO PAINFULLY BORING THAT I MADE UP WORSE DEVILS INSIDE MY MIND.
I HAVE BEEN TO SO MANY PLACES SINCE. I HAVE SEEN BEYOND THESE WORLDS.
I HAVE BEEN TETHERED AND BONDED AND STITCHED IN WITH THINGS FAR BEYOND UNDERSTANDING.
BUT I KEEP RETURNING TO THIS HOUSE OVER AND OVER. I WONDER IF THIS WAS MY FIRST SYMBIOSIS...
...DO YOU UNDERSTAND, SCOTT?
WHEN I RETURNED REBORN IN NEW SKIN, IN NEW ARMOR, I MELDED IN WITH THIS PLACE.
I AM THIS HOUSE AND THIS HOUSE IS ME.
YOU WONDERED HOW I KNEW ABOUT THE ROBE?
IN THE FIRST ROOM, THE PIECE OF SKIN YOU GAVE-- THE HOUSE TOOK IT... AND I PEERED IN. AND IT TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
I KNOW YOU TRY SO HARD TO BE INTERESTING AND CHARMING. IT'S WHY YOU SNEAK INTO HOUSES AT NIGHT, ARMED WITH A PHONE.
YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT BEHIND SOME DOOR IS A THING THAT IS BEYOND THE MUNDANE. BUT ST. ESTES SHOWED ME THAT THE REAL DOOR THAT NEEDS TO BE OPENED IS INSIDE YOU.
SO TELL ME, SCOTT... DO YOU WANT TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE NEXT ROOM?
I...I DO. I WANT TO KNOW.
OH, GOODY...

YOU SEE, SCOTT, EACH TIME YOU GIVE UP A PIECE OF YOURSELF TO THE HOUSE, IT OPENS A DOOR INTO YOU.
LIKE THIS ONE, LEADING UP THE STAIRS OF THE HOUSE YOU GREW UP IN.
WHERE SOMETIMES, WHEN MOMMY WAS AWAY, YOU'D HEAR NOISES UPSTAIRS FROM YOUR FATHER'S ROOM THAT'D KEEP YOU FROM SLEEPING.
THAT'S WHERE YOU REMEMBER THE ROBE FROM, ISN'T IT?
SOMETIMES THE ROOMS TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES.
LIKE THE YEAR YOU WENT FROM BEING A SCRAWNY LITTLE FREAK TO ONE OF THE COOL KIDS.
THEY LOVED YOU IN THAT SCHOOL, DIDN'T THEY? THAT FLASH OF HAIR, THE COOL GAIT, THE CHILD'S VOICE BEGINNING TO BREAK.
WHY DON'T THEY SEE YOU LIKE THAT ANYMORE?
SCOTT RAWSON AND THE GANG, KEEPING THE SCHOOL FREAK FREE.
THAT'S HOW YOU REMEMBER IT, DON'T YOU?

THE HOUSE IS ENDLESS WITHIN, SCOTT. AS ENDLESS AS YOU OR I ARE ON THE INTERIOR.
THE ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW MANY PIECES DO YOU HAVE TO GIVE?
SHALL WE KEEP ON, SCOTT RAWSON?
N-NO...NO, THIS IS NOT REAL. NONE OF THIS IS REAL. THIS IS JUST SOME KIND OF TRICK... SOME VIRAL MARKETING--
DON'T!
DON'T YOU DARE DO THAT!
DESECRATE THE BEAUTY OF THE INTERIOR--DEFILE THE RICH SENSATION OF THE INNER FLESH WITH YOUR MUNDANE "REALITY." YOUR BORING TRUTHS.
YOU WISH TO LEAVE?
THE DOOR IS OPEN...THIS IS, AFTER ALL, ONLY A BURNED-DOWN, BROKEN HOUSE ON A NOWHERE STREET.
GO ON... LEAVE IF YOU WANT...IF YOU CAN.


OUTSIDE, THIS HOUSE IS ANOTHER MYTH DEBUNKED.
NO ONE WILL BELIEVE YOUR TRUTH BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO FRIGHTENED TO BELIEVE ANYTHING BEYOND THEMSELVES.
OUTSIDE, YOU'RE JUST A BOY WHO DISCOVERED HIS FATHER CHEATED ON HIS MOM EACH NIGHT SHE WAS AWAY.
OUTSIDE, SCOTT RAWSON ONLY GREW UP TO BE ANOTHER CLICHÉ WHO BULLIED OTHERS BECAUSE THEY REMINDED HIM OF WHO HE USED TO BE.
OUTSIDE, YOU TRY SO HARD TO BE THE HERO OF YOUR OWN STORIES, BUT THE TRUTH IS NOT ROMANTIC EXCEPT BY CHANCE.
AND THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU ARE SMALL, BORING AND UNIMPORTANT.
BUT THIS... THIS ISN'T REAL... IS IT?
LIFE CLAWS AWAY PIECES OF YOU UNTIL YOU ARE TOO OLD TO NOTICE, AND THEN YOU DIE.
HERE, I TOOK PIECES OF YOU TO SHOW YOU A DIFFERENT TRUTH. TELL ME, SCOTT RAWSON...WHICH FELT MORE REAL?


it's back on...the stream's live again.
MASSAO
WTH? Where's Scott?
TAMURA
Scott, this is the ultimate troll and I'm here for it.
NWOLF_12
Guys should someone call the cops?
S.GUY13
I'm out.
YOU SAID YOU KEEP RETURNING TO THIS HOUSE...BUT YOU SAID YOU'VE BEEN OUTSIDE AND FAR BEYOND.
YOU FOUND NOTHING IN ALL EXISTENCE THAT COULD KEEP YOU THERE?
I FOUND SOMEONE ONCE...WE WERE INSEPARABLE.
WE WERE ALMOST A GOD.


"IT CAN CHANGE YOU... THAT KIND OF POWER. THAT KIND OF... PERSPECTIVE.
"THEY WENT AWAY FROM ME...TO SEE JUST HOW FAR THEY COULD GO.
"SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT CARNAGE THEY MUST BE GETTING UP TO.
"BUT THEN I REALIZE... THEY WILL SEE THE TRUTH THAT I SAW WHEN IT ALL COMES FULL CIRCLE.
"THE TWINKLES IN THE SKY ARE ONLY THE GHOSTS OF DEAD STARS. AND THERE IS NOWHERE IN ALL OF EXISTENCE THAT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL OR MORE REAL THAN MY INTERIOR.
"THAN INSIDE THIS HOUSE.
"HERE...RIGHT HERE. STILL...AS I CRAFT A REALITY OF MY OWN MAKING..."

...I CAN CHOOSE TO BE GOD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: ISSUE #9

ON SALE IN JANUARY

CARNAGE RULES, AND THE CRIMSON-CLAD CREATURE CRAVES YOUR LETTERS! SEND YOUR NOTES TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM.** BE SURE TO MARK THEM **"OKAY TO PRINT"!** –TOM